



SYLLABUS for Brass Techniques - Spring 2026

MUS 2123: Credit: 1

1:00 - 1:50 TTh (FAB 100)

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Office Hours: TTH 2-3 & F 2-4; or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to give the student basic skills in playing brass instruments and prepare the student to be an effective and knowledgeable teacher of brass instruments. Emphasis will be placed on performance and pedagogy, and will familiarize the student with the resources available to supplement the information that is presented in class.

Required Materials:

- Provided in class
- Notebook for Course and Resource Materials
- Well-maintained instrument (distributed and collected by the instructor)

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize a characteristic sound on each of the brass instruments. (*knowledge*)
2. Play each brass instrument at an acceptable level with a characteristic sound. (*skill*)
3. Explain solutions to playing and pedagogical problems as they relate to brass instruments. (*knowledge, skill, and disposition*)
4. Explain basic historical evolutions of brass instruments. (*knowledge*)
5. Seek out resources to answer questions and problems beyond their knowledge. (*skill and disposition*)

Major Assignments with Matched SLOs:

- Written tests and reports 1, 3, 4, 5
- Playing tests 2, 5
- Resource Notebook of Collected Materials 3, 4, 5

Music Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance [or composition].
- SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes.
- SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance [or composition].

This course contributes to addressing these cumulative SLO's.

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production. *
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community. *
4. Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting. *
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with *

Attendance Policy:

You could not effectively teach a brass instrument to a beginning student who does not show up to their lessons. Absences would indicate that the student neither practices nor completes homework assignments. In the same way, you will not learn to be an effective music teacher if you don't attend class. Since we have relatively few class meetings, and a great amount of material to cover, attendance is required. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor prior to an absence, or as soon as possible following. Work conflicts are treated as unexcused absences and are not tolerated. Please review the SRSU attendance policy on unexcused absences in the Student Handbook.

Tardy Policy:

Being late to class is disruptive to other students, the teacher, and the learning process. If you enter after the start of class, you are tardy. The start of class is defined as the point at which the teacher begins teaching. Your first tardy is free. After that, every two tardy occurrences will be counted as one unexcused absence, and will fall under the attendance policy. If you are tardy for what you believe is an excusable reason, please speak with me in person after class. Written authorization may be required.

Practice:

Study of an instrument requires self-discipline and time management. Regular and consistent practice is expected of all students. Music education students should practice their secondary instruments a minimum of 15-30 minutes per day, 10 minutes on fundamentals and 20 on exercises/repertoire. The development of positive muscle memory and musicality requires consistent practice and thought over time; there is no way around this and no way to cram just before a performance to make up for the lack of it.

Grading Procedures :

Since this is a skills course, your grade will primarily be based on your performance in class and on playing quizzes, as well as your knowledge of the historical and pedagogical aspects of each instrument. Students will be given the opportunity to earn points in the following areas:

25% Written Work and Assignments

25% Playing and Written Tests

25% Attendance and Participation

25% Final Exam and Resource Notebook

Grading Scale:

90%-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and lower	F

Professionalism:

- Students found to be using any electronic device while attending any performance will have their grade lowered by one letter.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner and are expected to fully support and respect each member of the studio.

Remember that you are representing Sul Ross State University, the Music Program, and yourself always. All your actions define your professionalism and have an impact on how you are perceived by your colleagues and professors now and into the future.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty hurts everyone and reduces the value of college degrees. Doing someone else's work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read and understand the university's policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook, as all violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The Student Handbook can be found

at: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook> (page 80).

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments, as well as monitoring software for course exams.

If you have any questions about this, please ask!

SRSU Library Services

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973.

It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Distance Education Statement:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

COVID Statement:

Sul Ross State University will follow federal, statewide, and Texas State University System orders. All changes will be posted on the SRSU website: sulross.edu.

If you need further assistance, please contact your support services listed above, including counseling, library, OIT/Blackboard.

In face-to-face courses, wearing masks and social distancing is required. Anyone who has a fever, or any other symptom, should stay home. If you do not comply

with these directions, you will be asked to leave, and if you do not, class will be cancelled.

Patience, respect, and cooperation are needed from all of us to persist through these uncomfortable times. Your health, safety, and academic success is my priority.

Course Content and Calendar (subject to change)

Each lesson shall consist of the following instructional methods: warm-ups, fundamentals, lyrical etudes, technical etudes, excerpts, solos, chamber music, ensemble music, and other relevant topics, such as auditioning, performance anxiety, career development, and so forth. The instructional methods contribute towards the aforementioned SLOs.

Schedule will be posted to Blackboard